

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
APRIL 13, 2014

**1. ROLL CALL**

Present were: J.D. Birchmeier, Rick Accountius, Amy Saunders, Karen Kochanski, Doug Golliher, Chereese Montgomery, and Robert Pudim

Absent: Council Liaison Brian Bagley

Staff Present: Jeff Friesner, Kim Shugar, Kathy Kron, and Jennifer Wojniak

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion by Rick Accountius to amend the agenda; moving New Business first due to Indian Peaks Elementary fourth grade appreciation. A motion to approve the amended agenda by Chereese Montgomery, seconded by J.D. Birchmeier. Motion passed 7-0.

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES**

A motion to table the approval of the March 13, 2015 minutes due to incorrect minutes added to the Board Packet. Motion passed 7-0.

**4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD- None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Affolter Park Playground Replacement Final Plan and Appreciation of Indian Peaks Elementary 4th Grade Students**

Kathy Kron presented background on the design of the new playground to be added at Affolter Park. The fourth grade class from Indian Peaks Elementary were hands on with the new playground, and were an integral part of the design. Their design fit the required parameters which were to fit to scale, within budget, and focused on safety and accessibility concerns. They also took into consideration shade and seating for parents. The fourth grade class first developed a survey for staff and students to get their input, they then compiled all the data and gave a summary of feedback to Kathy. There was a brief introduction of the teachers and students from Indian Peaks, and they were presented with a framed design of the playground. Kathy also thanked the teachers that spearheaded the project, and also all the students in all three classes.

Councilwoman Sara Levison was impressed with how enthusiastic and knowledgeable the students are. She then went on to state that they showed true ownership and collaboration in the project. Rick Accountius asked the students if

they got everything they wanted out of the park, they said yes. J.D. Birchmeier wanted to add his commendation to the classes of Indian Peaks.

## **B. Garden Acres Master Plan Update/Park Renewal Preliminary Plan-Kathy Kron**

The Park Renewal plan kick off was July 2014. This is a playground replacement project due to the aging infrastructure of the playground, and is funded by the Park and Greenway Maintenance Fee. There is a need to update Garden Acres Master Plan because the original Plan dates back to 1986, and the first phase of the playground was in 1988.

Kathy explained that most of the revisions are due to American Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. There is three million dollars of funding to use for this project for the next 3 years. The idea is to have one playground under the center pavillion, and also to make one of the playgrounds outside of the ballfield to use as a neighborhood park. The design shows a pedestrian corridor, practice fields, recommendation for a food truck plaza, and vending machines. There will be removal of the bathrooms and concessions from under the pavilion, which will allow for visibility. By opening the design of the parks, and adding more lighting, will aid in crime prevention. The electrical chase room will have to stay. The dugouts, score booths, and shelters will be renovated. First phase of the project will be to replace the pump house which is undersized. The playground replacement is pushed into 2016 because of where it will be located. Recommended concrete pads for temporary toilets that large tournaments can use. On April 21st there will be a public open house to get feedback, then will come back for a recommendation from PRAB, then to Council.

J.D. Birchmeier wondered if the hill in the middle of the park will be gone? Kathy stated that they will add ramping for ADA compliance. The pavilion will stay, but part of the building will be taken out. J.D. Birchmeier then asked what is the average attendance? Jeff stated that there is 3500 ball players during the summer, not including spectators or tournaments. Garden Acres is the most heavily used community park for athletics.

Cherese Montgomery thought concessions was a revenue generator. Jeff Friesner stated that 78-80% of the costs are recovered. Cherese Montgomery then asked if there is seating area, tables and trash cans around the pavilion. Kathy said that trash receptacles and benches will be included in the plan, and there will be picnic tables in the gateway shelters.

Rick Accountius liked the idea of a separate playground and asked why the restrooms are on the South West part of the park as opposed to the other side? Kathy stated that it's due to infrastructure; water and the sewer are on the South West side. Rick Accountius then asked if there were any parking issues? Jeff stated that there is an additional parking lot added to the west of the field. This was

added so players didn't have to park on the street, due to neighborhood issues. Rick Accountius asked if there will be disruptions to leagues during all of the construction. Jeff stated that 2 fields will be off line at a time.

Doug Golliher asked for more information about deterrents to vandalism. Kathy stated the key is to open the center of the park and add more lighting.

### **C. Amending Union Reservoir Entrance Fee for Disabled Veterans-Kim Shugar**

Kim Shugar is talking to City Council on April 14th about the entrance fee for veterans. There are discussions on only the reduced daily entrance fee, not the season pass so veterans will still need to show their i.d. card. There was discussion about the difference between the season and the daily entrance fee, and which one would work with the situation.

Robert Pudim thinks that since it's just one person requesting a reduced rate, that he should ask other veterans to get their input.

Karen Kochanski also thinks that the City should meet with veterans organizations in longmont, and see if there any funding from Veterans Associations to cover this funding?

Cherese Montgomery asked what item 12 is on the second page of the document? The difference between Veteran vs Non Veteran rate? Kim stated that the discounted fee is for the second vehicle. Rick Accountius is in favor of this resolution.

Rick Accountius made a motion for PRAB to recommend that fees at Union Reservoir be amended to waive the daily entrance fees for disabled veterans to recognize their service to our country per the criteria set forth in the communication. Karen Kochanski seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Recreation Master Plan Public Draft presented by Jeff Friesner**

The purpose of the Recreation Master Plan is to set strategic direction for the programs Recreation offers. Page 17 identifies Recreation's strengths, what the community feels Recreation should do differently, better, or not at all. Page 23 lists goals. This includes finding ways to bring new participants to Recreation Services, building upon current strengths, exploring and expanding partnerships, and promoting the community. Looking at revising cost recovery. For every dollar that the City invests in Recreation through the General Fund, Recreation Services provides nine dollars in programs and services to the community. Chapter 4 discusses strategic objectives and specific actions of the 4 goals. Chapter 5 gives

direction to staff, how the plan will be implemented, and how we will review programs over a three year period. The appendix section lists the tools to help staff evaluate and review goals and action items. Appendix C lists performance measures. Appendix D describes the program coordination model which will alleviate overlap in programming. Appendix E involves the Use Of Public Process, which helps the public with permits. Appendix F is a summary of public outreach, which provides comments on how we got to where we are today. Jeff advised PRAB to spend most of their time reading chapter 4 and he will be taking comments until May 1st. MIG will come back and present to PRAB, then to Council to accept document.

Doug Golliher needs guidance on what is PRAB looking for? Jeff said that PRAB should look for things are missing or things that are unclear. Jeff will send comments to MIG, and they will consolidate the comments, then take to the community to make comments.

## **7. ON-GOING ITEMS**

Karen Kochanski had a question in regards to the St Vrain Improvement Plan, what is the 30% design? Kim stated that it means that it is 30% complete.

Rick asked about the Compassion Tower? Kim stated that the tower is falling apart. The bird excrement has been removed, and the shingles will need to be worked on. A structural engineer will evaluate the structure.

Doug Golliher asked how we did financially in regards to the Ice Pavilion? Jeff stated that the financial statements came out, and he will bring next time. Doug Golliher then asked how are we prioritizing where to do the renovations, should the Board be involved in the process? Kim said that the approach was approved in the Trails Master Plan, priority is based on asset renewal.

J.D. Birchmeier asked about the mowing of rough and ready ditch. Kim stated that some individuals don't like the current mowing process, but it is not safe for staff to mow further in the ditch. If the City has to hire a company to mow, it would cost more money.

Button Rock will be open, and permits will be on sale soon.

## **8. ITEMS FROM STAFF-Jeff Friesner**

A consultant is working on the marketing analysis section of the Pool and Ice Rink Feasibility Study. Centennial Pool will be evaluated and a meeting is scheduled with representatives from different groups, like the Red Tails, SVVSD, and ice skating groups by the 1st of May.

Uses at Roosevelt Park, concern with Hops and Handrails and the ramp was built. Waiting to see the results of the turf, and there is a meeting with the organizer to

look at the event in the future. Neighbors are frustrated with the events at Roosevelt park and Mackintosh will be next with impact from all the various 5k, we need to get direction from Council. Rick Accountius asked about raising fees? Jeff needs to talk to PRAB and Council about this to make sure fees are recovered. Kim started this same process for Union Reservoir. Events have grown in numbers but fees haven't increased, there is discussion with organizers.

## **9. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

J.D. Birchmeier started a raptor monitoring program. There are 60 hawk nests in Longmont and 40 of these nests are occupied. Eagles have moved to Sandstone Ranch.

Karen Kochanski stated that the Master Plan should be one of the evaluation processes to look at impacts on parks, and prioritization in regards to using Roosevelt and other existing places for events. Jeff said that it wasn't the charge given to MIG, and this has only come up over the last couple months. Karen Kochanski went to Oregon and swam in an outdoor 50 meter pool, with a tent over it for use all year. It seems to function well, might be something to look at. Do we have pickleball? Jeff stated that there are pickleball lines at Collyer Park, and Longmont Recreation Center has three courts.

Cherese Montgomery said that her kids attended the fishing event at Izaak Walton Pond and had a great time. There is free rides from Avid for Adventure in Boulder. Jeff said that if the numbers are good, and if we can show demand, then maybe look at program in Longmont for next summer.

Rick Accountius reminded PRAB that on April 21st, Garden Acres will have an open house from 5-6:30pm. Amy Saunders and Rick Accountius attended the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan, they said that everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a Council field trip and Jeff will talk to Clerks Office for possible dates and will present to PRAB next month. Rick Accountius make motion to move the PRAB meetings back to Parks building, Doug Golliher second the motion. Rick Accountius thinks that this venue is stifling for discussion, and a hinderance for creative juices. Cherese Montgomery asked to stay at Council for one more month until school is out. Rob thought Council Chamber is a good venue for having the 4th graders come tonight, and thought that keeping Chambers as an option for when PRAB has special meetings.

Karen Kochanski has concerns about the bridge out on Sunset, and disagrees with the idea of moving the meetings back to the Parks department.

Rick Accountius made a motion to move the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings back to the Parks building for the June meeting. Motion passes 6-1.

## **10. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Cherese Montgomery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rob seconded. Motion passed 7-0.